

## CONGRESSIONAL MEDALS OF HONOR.

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JANUARY 20, 1897.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. McCLELLAN, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

### REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 9822.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 9822) for recognition of officers of the Army to whom the Congressional medal of honor has been awarded, have examined the same, and report as follows:

This bill provides that officers of the Army, to whom medals of honor have been awarded in the name of Congress under joint resolution approved July 12, 1862, or the act approved March 3, 1863, shall be designated by the letters "M. H." immediately after their names where they appear in the Army Register according to departments, corps, regiments, and the retired list. It involves absolutely no additional expense or appropriation.

The joint resolution of July 12, 1862, authorized the President to present medals of honor, in the name of Congress, to such noncommissioned officers and privates as should most distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action and other soldier-like qualities during the war of the rebellion. This joint resolution referred only to the enlisted men of the Army and volunteer forces. The act of March 3, 1863, was supplementary to the joint resolution of July 12, 1862. It authorized the striking of additional medals and their presentation, not only to noncommissioned officers and privates, but also to such commissioned officers as had or who might thereafter most distinguish themselves in action.

Section 177, article 25, of the Regulations of the Army, restricts the awarding of medals of honor to officers and enlisted men who most distinguished themselves in action, thereby very properly excluding from eligibility for the medal of honor enlisted men who, in the words of the joint resolution of July 12, 1862, have only shown "other soldier-like qualities." As section 177, article 25, of the Regulations, is now and has been for many years interpreted by the War Department under successive administrations, the medal of honor is given only to those officers and enlisted men who most distinguished themselves in action by acts of individual bravery outside of the line of their ordinary duty.

Of the commissioned officers whose names are contained in the Army Register for 1896 67 had received the medal of honor, of whom 22 were on the retired list and 45 were in active service. They range in rank from the Lieutenant-General upon the retired list and the Major-General Commanding the Army to second lieutenants. Their names are now

borne at the end of the Register. There is nothing, however, in the body of the Register to show that they have been thus distinguished.

Your committee are of the opinion that the heroism which has been rewarded by the bestowal of these medals should at least be recognized by some distinguishing mark after the names of the recipients in the Army Register, not only as a recognition of their services, but also as an example to the Army and to the nation of the best type of American manhood, dash, and gallantry.

Your committee therefore recommend that the bill do pass.

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